

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A print system in a network configuration which processes print requests from a plurality of clients for printing on a printer comprising:

a storing unit which stores printer information ~~about the printer, the printer information~~ representing whether the printer is set as a shared printer ~~can be shared by the plurality of clients;~~

a printer monitoring unit which receives the printer information ~~from the printer~~ at times unrelated to processing of a print request from the plurality of clients, compares the received printer information with printer information corresponding to the printer previously stored in the storing unit, and if on the basis of the comparison, the monitoring unit determines that the received printer information is different from the stored printer information, the monitoring unit further determines that the stored printer information is invalid and cancels sharing of the printer;

a notifying unit which, in timely response to the monitoring unit canceling the ~~shared sharing of the~~ printer, notifies said plurality of clients that the sharing of the printer has been canceled, the notice including a name of the canceled printer;

a program forming unit which forms an installing program for use by the client; and
if the printer monitoring unit detects an addition of a new printer which can be shared by the plurality of clients, the notifying unit sends information indicative of the position of the installing program to the plurality of clients.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The print system according to claim 1, wherein said notifying unit notifies said client of a name of the printer and a name of the print server by E-mail.

5. (Previously presented) The print system according to claim 1, wherein if said change indicates a change in the name of the printer, said notifying unit notifies said client that the printer name has been changed.

6. (Previously presented) The print system according to claim 5, wherein said notifying unit notifies said client of information of a canceled printer and an added printer by E-mail.

7. (Previously Presented) The print system according to claim 1, wherein the program forming unit which forms the installing program installs it into a predetermined position when addition of the new printer is detected by said printer monitoring unit.

8. (Previously Presented) The print system according to claim 7, wherein said notifying unit notifies said client with information of the printer together with the predetermined position of the installing program.

9. (Original) The print system according to claim 7, wherein said installing position is a Web page.

10. (Original) The print system according to claim 7, wherein said program forming unit forms an installing program for direct printing and installs it into a predetermined position, and said notifying unit notifies said client of information of the installing position.

11-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The printer setting method according to claim 21, wherein said notifying unit notifies said plurality of clients of a name of the canceled printer and a name of a print server by E-mail.

15. (Previously presented) The printer setting method according to claim 21, wherein if said change indicates a change in shared name of one of the shared printers, said notifying unit notifies said plurality of clients that the shared printer name has been changed.

16. (Previously presented) The printer setting method according to claim 15, wherein said notifying unit notifies said client of information of the canceled printer and an added printer by E-mail.

17. (Previously Presented) The printer setting method according to claim 21 further comprising the step of:

installing the installing program into a predetermined position when addition of the new printer is detected by said printer monitoring unit.

18. (Previously Presented) The printer setting method according to claim 17, wherein said notifying unit notifies said client with information of the printer together with the installing position of the installing program.

19. (Original) The printer setting method according to claim 17, wherein said installing position is a Web page.

20. (Original) The printer setting method according to claim 17, wherein said program forming unit forms an installing program for direct printing and installs it into a predetermined position, and said notifying unit notifies said client of information of the installing position.

21. (Currently amended) A method for monitoring a printer connected with a plurality of clients, the method comprising the steps of:

storing printer information about the printer in a storing unit, the printer information representing whether the printer is set as a shared printer ~~can be shared by the plurality of clients~~;

receiving in a printer monitoring unit printer information ~~from the printer~~ at times unrelated to processing of a print request from the plurality of clients;

comparing in the printer monitoring unit the received printer information with printer information corresponding to the printer previously stored in the storing unit; and

determining, based on the comparing, that the stored printer information is invalid if the received printer information is different from the previously stored printer information and based on the stored printer information being invalid, the canceling sharing of the printer;

notifying, in timely response to the monitoring unit canceling the shared printer, said plurality of clients that the sharing of the printer has been canceled, the notice including a name of the canceled printer;

a program forming unit which forms an installing program for use by the client; and

if the printer monitoring unit detects an addition of a new printer which can be shared by the plurality of clients, the notifying unit sends information indicative of the position of the installing program to the plurality of clients.

22. (Previously Presented) The print system of claim 1, wherein if the installing program does not exist, the notifying unit notifies a network administrator that the new printer has to be installed.

23. (Previously Presented) The print system of claim 21, wherein if the installing program does not exist, the notifying unit notifies a network administrator that the new printer has to be installed.